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man's ever-present comrade, and the narrow-dock. More attractive plants are the wood-sorrel (*Oxalis stricta*), with its yellow bells closing as the sun declines, and with its light and graceful leaves, so pleasantly acerb; several species of clover (*Trifolium*) and *lucern* (*Medicago*); the Deptford-pink (*Dianthus armenia*), with its only star, and the celandine (*Chelidonium*).

To those who cannot take long walks, and who yet are interested in nature, we commend these weed gardens which are free to all. They will find a great number of families represented; a great many plans of growth illustrated; many beautiful blossoms, quaint seed-vessels, graceful grasses, and delicious odors, to reward them.

We do not pen these lines in order to save any weed of them all from destruction. The tares must be rooted out or what will become of the wheat? In fact, we are fully conscious that the very next time we see an impudent pig-weed overtopping our favorite marigolds, we will pluck it up root and branch. We merely desire to show that even the poor man may have his botanic garden; that in the words of Lowell:

> " A weed is nought but a flower in disguise,
> Which is seen through at once if love give a man eyes."

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RECENT LITERATURE.

WALLACE'S TROPICAL NATURE.[1]—The gifted author's long residence in the tropical regions of the old and new world, and his large way of looking at nature, induced by extensive travel and acute observation in both hemispheres, have enabled him to produce a book, which, for the breadth of its views, and interest of its style, must claim a place among those few works in existence of which Humboldt's Views of Nature is a type. Wallace's general views, however, of tropical life and nature while fresh, and based on manifold and novel facts, will not perhaps be considered as particularly original to those who have read Humboldt's narratives and essays. Our author accounts for the great richness and variety of the plants and animals of the tropics by the uniformity of the equatorial climate in all parts of the globe. "Over a large portion of the tropics," he writes, "the same general features prevail, only modified by varying local conditions, whether we are at Singapore or Batavia, in the Moluccas, or New Guinea, at Para, at the sources of the Rio Negro or on the Upper Amazon, the equatorial climate is essentially the same, and we have no reason to believe that it materially differs in Guinea or the Congo." On the other hand the glacial period disturbed the uniformity of the temperate zone and caused a partial extinction of life. Where there are departures from the typical equatorial climate, as in rainless and desert tracts, this seems probably due to the nature of the soil or the artificial clearing away of the forests, and he cites the case of Central India where "the scanty and intermittent rainfall, with its fearful accompaniment of famine, is no doubt in great part due to the absence of a sufficient proportion of forest-covering to the earth's surface." He then calls attention to the fact that "with but few and unimportant exceptions a great forest band from a thousand to fifteen hundred miles in width girdles the earth at the equator, clothing hill, plain, and mountain with an evergreen mantle. Lofty peaks and precipitous ridges are sometimes bare, but often the woody covering continues to a height of eight or ten thousand feet, as in some of the volcanic mountains of Java, and on portions of the Eastern Andes." This forest belt merges into woody and then open country, soon changing into arid plains or even into deserts, where the great equatorial currents of air laden with moisture do not penetrate.

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[1] *Tropical Nature and other Essays.* By ALFRED R. WALLACE. London, MacMillan & Co., 1878. 8vo. pp. 356.

The primeval forests of the equatorial zone are distinguished from the forests of the temperate zones by their vastness, "and by the display of a force of development and vigor of growth rarely or never witnessed in temperate climates." There is also a great variety of specific forms, while the individuals are less numerous, this being the reverse of what is to be seen in the Temperate and Arctic Zones.

Animal life is likewise more abundant and varied specifically, many groups, as butterflies, parrots, humming birds, apes and monkeys, lizards, frogs and snakes being pre-eminently tropical, and in the tropics, "evolution has had a fair chance" while in the Temperate Zone, with its glacial periods, "it has had countless difficulties thrown in its way. The equatorial regions are then, as regards their past and present life history, a more ancient world than that represented by the Temperate Zones, a world in which the laws which have governed the progressive development of life have operated with comparatively little check for countless ages, and have resulted in those infinitely varied and beautiful forms—those wonderful eccentricities of structure, of function, and of instinct—that rich variety of color, and that nicely balanced harmony of relations, which delight and astonish us in the animal productions of all tropical countries."

While the chapters on tropical life occupy the first half of the book, the second half is devoted to essays on the color of animals and plants, and the origin of color-sense; on some relations of living things to their environment; on the rise and progress of modern views as to the antiquity and origin of man, and on the distribution of animals as indicating geographical changes. These essays, though on recondite subjects, are of great general interest, and presented in the attractive style characteristic of the author's other popular works and essays.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF NORTH AMERICAN INVERTEBRATE PALÆONTOLOGY.[1]—Works such as these, though laborious and requiring much time in their preparation, are naturally useful in proportion as they are full and accurate. The present work is probably as complete as others of the sort, the names of the compilers giving assurance that it is. In its scope the bibliography is confined to those works which treat, either wholly or in part, of invertebrate fossils found within the limits of North America, including the West Indies and Greenland, and, for convenience, the comparatively few contributions of American authors to the palæontology of other countries, and published in their own, have been included in Part I. Among the omissions that occur to us are papers and notes by Verrill and Scudder, Wood, and Packard on the Quarternary fossils of New England and Labrador, contributed to the Memoirs and Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, and the Portland Society of Natural History, also Ordway's article on Paradoxides in the Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CENTRAL OHIO SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION.[2]—The members of this Association, which seems to have been quietly working for three years past, have done themselves no little credit by the publication of the first part of their Proceedings. The papers are mainly on archæological and historical subjects; among those on the former topics are two by Mr. T. F. Moses on the ancient remains of Mad River valley, with an account of the opening of the Baldwin and Roberts Mounds, and on the shell heaps of the coast of Maine. Mr. J. E. Warren contributes a report of a survey of earthworks on Haddix hill, Ohio, near Osborn, Ohio, and an account of a sculptured rock from Marblehead, Ohio. Rev. Geo. Gibson reports on the ancient pottery found near Green Bay, Wisconsin. The Society cannot do better than to continue to explore, and carefully map out all Indian mounds in the State, and figure the remains found in them. Such contributions are of lasting value.

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[1] *Bibliography of North American Invertebrate Palæontology*, being a Report upon the Publications that have hitherto been made upon the Invertebrate Palæontology of North America, including the West Indies and Greenland. By C. A. WHITE, M.D., palæontologist of the U. S. Geological Survey, and H. ALLEYNE NICHOLSON, M.D., D. Sc., etc., Department of the Interior. U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories, F. V. HAYDEN, U. S. Geologist. Miscellaneous Publications, No. 10. Washington, 1878, 8vo, pp. 132.

[2] *Proceedings of the Central Ohio Scientific Association.* Urbana, Ohio, Vol. i, Part 1. Published by the Association, Urbana, 1878. 8vo, pp. 96, 16 plates.